

THINK FOOD
School Nutrition Programs
July/August 2009

NEW LOOK - NEW NAME

*USDA Foods - Healthy Choices
American Grown*



The Food Distribution Division (FDD) of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has begun a marketing campaign focused on the many positive, but frequently little known attributes of commodities. Visit their new Web site at www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/commodityfoodfacts.htm.

USDA FOOD ORDER UPDATE

Your USDA Foods shipping schedule for the 2009-10 school year is enclosed unless you picked up your copy at the Montana School Nutrition Association conference that was held in Billings in June. Due to the USDA changing the delivery period for canned corn the following changes have been made:



1. The canned corn on shipment 3 has been moved to shipment 7 and replaced with the dried cherries from shipment 5.
2. The pinto beans on shipment 7 have been moved to shipment 5 to replace the dried cherries.

Bonus foods are still available to order online at:

www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/foodDistNEW.html under forms.

Bonus foods available include Blueberries, Wild, Turkey Brst Deli Meat, Ultra High Temperature Milk and Walnuts. Not sure if you placed an order? Check your shipping schedule to see if you have any cases coming for those items. (If your order was placed after June 24 it will not appear on your shipping schedule.)

If you have questions on your order please contact Food Distribution at (406) 444-4415.

BEST WHEN FRESH REMINDER

It is best to serve foods at their freshest. If you stored food through the summer be sure to use it during the first few months of school.

DoD FRESH PROGRAM



Once again School Nutrition Programs has increased our DoD Fresh entitlement by \$55,000 for a total of \$335,795. You will receive two dollar amounts to use when purchasing your fresh fruits and vegetables.

One amount must be spent by September 30, 2009, and the second amount must be spent prior to the close of school in 2010.

If you have questions regarding the DoD Fresh program or your entitlement, contact Kennie at (406) 444-4412.



RAPID ALERT RECALL

We still have memories of last year's beef recall and, as with any experience, lessons were learned. Getting the word out to everyone in a timely manner was a cumbersome task. After hearing from stakeholders the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has developed a new "rapid alert system." The system is available through "free" registration, and an e-mail will be sent directly to subscribers whenever a commodity item is involved in a food safety issue.

If you have not already registered you may do so by visiting the FNS food safety Web site homepage at: www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/fd_foodsafety.htm.

NO REFUSALS REMINDER

Foods ordered through OPI's Cooperative Purchase Program cannot be refused at the time of delivery. When placing your orders be sure to double check your entries. Refusing items after they have been ordered isn't fair to the bid-winning vendor who took into account every case ordered when bidding the products at the lowest possible price.

USDA Commodity Foods also has a no refusal policy. If there is an error on your USDA Commodity delivery you should notify Food Distribution upon receipt of your Notice of Shipment at (406) 444-4415.

If any USDA Commodity Foods are refused at the time of delivery your school will be billed for the shipping costs to return the product to the warehouse.

\$HIPPING COST\$



The cost of shipping commodities for the 2009-10 school year will be \$3.50 plus an additional fuel surcharge. The fuel surcharge is dependent upon the price of diesel fuel at the time of delivery and will vary throughout the year.

Shipping costs for public schools are paid with state match funds. Private schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI) are responsible for the shipping and processing costs of any USDA Foods purchased and will receive an invoice for the 2009-10 school year in May from the OPI Food Distribution Office.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Administrative Regional

Training: This training is for school administrators, clerks and secretaries. Learn about free and reduced-price meal applications, program requirements, and much more. Three hour trainings are planned for **August 18 in Billings and Missoula, August 19 in Glendive, August 26 in Havre and August 27 in Great Falls and Kalispell.** Administrative training will be from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Foodservice Manager Regional

Training: This training for foodservice managers will provide something for everyone, both new and

experienced. Topics will include what to expect during a review, program requirements, tips and tricks for filling out paperwork, and a chance to exchange ideas with others. Training will occur on **September 22 in Missoula, September 23 in Havre and Kalispell, September 24 in Great Falls, September 29 in Billings and September 30 in Glendive.** Foodservice Manager will be from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

REBATE PROGRAM REMINDER



Don't forget about the rebate programs offered by Schwan's, Gilardi/ConAgra Foods and MCI Los Cabos. These companies send schools participating in the program rebate checks for the value of commodity cheese used in products purchased.



Participation agreements are available on the Food Distribution Web site at: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/foodDistNEW.html> under forms.

(Forms remain on file for schools that have participated in the programs in the past.)

If you have questions contact either Kennie Johnson at (406) 444-4412 or Judy Wilson at (406) 444-4415.

OPI COOPERATIVE PURCHASE PROGRAM BID WINNER

Sysco Food Service of Montana is this year's winner of the fall bid. They

will begin delivering the first of four deliveries in mid August.

For additional information contact Kennie Johnson at (406) 444-4412.

ADDITIONAL USDA FOODS AVAILABLE

Additional USDA Foods for shipments 1 and 2 are available to order online along with the bonus items.

Additional items for shipment 1 are whole wheat flour, vegetable oil and brown long grain quick cook rice.

Additional items for shipment 2 are blackberries, blueberries cult, and cheddar reduced fat shredded cheese.

Place your orders using the Commodity Order Form found on the Food Distribution Web site at: www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/foodDistNEW.html.

Once you place your order and click the send to OPI button watch for a return e-mail notification verifying your order. If you do not receive notification within a few days please contact Food Distribution at (406) 444-4415.

Deadlines for ordering are August 12 for shipment 1 (dry) August 28 for shipment 2 (frz).